



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 5
 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
 CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

JUN 20 2012

S-6J



Re: Wolverine World Wide Tannery Site, Rockton, MI

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is in response to your petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, dated June 21, 2011 requesting an investigation of the Wolverine World Wide, Inc. Tannery Site, located at 123 North Main St. in Rockford, Michigan under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). EPA has conducted a Preliminary Assessment, as described in 40 C.F.R §§ 300.419(c) and 300.420, to determine whether a CERCLA action is warranted at the Site.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and EPA's Superfund Removal Program participated in the Preliminary Assessment. It is likely that contaminated groundwater discharges to the Rogue River. Elevated levels of several inorganic contaminants have been detected in the surface and subsurface soils in portions of the Site. Chromium, arsenic and mercury have been detected in sediment samples. Arsenic and chromium have also been detected in groundwater. However, EPA has concluded that a CERCLA removal response action is not warranted at this time, since the concentration and quantity of known contaminants do not present an immediate and substantial threat of release.

The Preliminary Assessment did determine that the Site scores above 28.50 in EPA's Hazardous Ranking System and merits further investigation. MDEQ has recommended that the Site be referred to it for further investigation under "Other Cleanup Authority". EPA has concluded that such a referral is appropriate for the Site. MDEQ has based its request for referral upon receiving a letter from Wolverine World Wide (dated June 11, 2012) in which they commit to working with the MDEQ under Section 14b of Part 201. Section 14b requires MDEQ approval of the work being conducted. We wish to emphasize, however, that by making such a referral, EPA does not waive our authority under CERCLA. We will periodically review the work being performed at the Site, retain our enforcement authority, and reserve the ability to resume the status of lead agency if necessary. For this Site, MDEQ has agreed to report to EPA at least twice a year.

If you have any further questions, please contact Nuria Muñiz, NPL Coordinator, at (312) 886-6312 or nuria.muniz@epa.gov or Tom Williams, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-5932 or tom.williams@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

Enclosures

1. Letter from MDEQ dated June 14, 2012
2. CERCLA Preliminary Assessment Report dated June 15, 2012

cc: David Kline, MDEQ

